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## REFORMS PROJECTED BY CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION

no question but that punishment for crime must be sure and swift, or the influence of good criminal laws is lost upon the community wherein there is such tardy enforcement. In striking contrast to the case noted above is the speedy conviction and sentence to death of five Italians charged with the murder of a woman in Westchester County, New York. The murder was committed on November 9, and twenty days later the defendants had all been arrested, tried and convicted, and two or three days later sentenced to death. Should there be an appeal in this latter case, we suspect it will be decided within a brief time as compared with the decision in the case of the lawyer. Can there be any suspicion on the part of anyone that it may sometimes happen that a foreigner or an ignorant citizen without friends might receive different treatment at the hands of some courts as to the speediness of the administration of justice from a wealthy man, or a man who has been somewhat distinguished in professional or other lines! We do not say that this is so, but there are a great many trials and appeals from trials in this country which furnish the foundation for just such a conclusion on the part of the public, and it is a matter to be deeply regretted by all friends of good order. The civilization of America is being tested in many ways as it never has been before, and one of these ways is in the line of quick or slow, fair or unfair, prejudiced or unprejudiced criminal procedure. Happily, New Jersey is a conspicuous instance of where objections to our criminal processes have not come to the front. There has been no occasion for them, and we hope there never may be."

R. H. G.

**Expedition of Justice in New Jersey.**--The *New Jersey Law Journal* for December, 1911, says that the New Jersey State Bar Association "has again taken the initiative, in an effort to provide some method by which the administration of justice in this state may be improved and expedited. It has appointed a committee to investigate and report upon this subject, which committee consists of former Justice Van Syckel, former Governor Fort, Supreme Court Justices Swayze and Bergen, Vice-Chancellors Walker and Howell, Judges Skinner and Gaskill, Senator Silzer, former Justice Gilbert Collins, William N. Clevenger and Frank H. Sommer.

"Two things are certain: First, that this committee is eminently capable of devising a plan of judicial procedure. Second, that the present dual plan in operation in this state ought to be improved, simplified and brought down to present needs and conditions.

"Nothing can be done in the way of voting on a constitutional amendment until 1914, and by that time the able committee may have devised a plan which the legislatures of 1913 and 1914 will approve and which the people will consider on its own merits."

R. H. G.

**Reforms Projected by the Chicago Bar Association.**--There is an extensive investigation being conducted by committees of the Chicago Bar Association with a view to bringing to light those members of the bar who are guilty of unprofessional conduct in the practice of their profession. It is the hope of these committees that blackmailing collection agencies and "ambulance chasers" may be done away with. There is, furthermore, a contemplated investigation of the judges of Cook County with the purpose of ascertaining whether it is possible to do away with country judges. This investi-